

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 IO-13 INR-07

BIB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8510

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSRK ABLD, AMGT, PFOR, SOPN, NI

SUBJECT: VOA AND NYT IN LAGOS

REF: (A) STATE 313986 (B) USIA 0007

1. IN VIEW REF B, WHICH IMPLIES THAT VOA DECISION TO CLOSE OUT IN LAGOS COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED IF HOUSING PROBLEM RESOLVED, WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST VOA RECONSIDER CLOSURE DECISION. AS INDICATED IN LAGOS 14355, THE EMBASSY HAD PROPOSED A HOUSING OPTION WHICH ROBERTS CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY IN SPITE OF INCREASED ANNUAL RENT FROM NAIRA 5000 HE IS NOW PAYING TO NAIRA 14000 EMBASSY IS PAYING FOR QUARTERS TO WHICH WE WOULD MOVE HIM. ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY HAS JUST TURNED UP WITH ANOTHER LANDLORD WHO SAYS HE WILL RENT THREE BEDROOM HOUSE "WITHIN RENT CONTROL EDICT'S SPECIFICATIONS," WHICH MEANS NAIRA 10,000.

2; NYT CORRESPONDENT DANRTON JUST RETURNED FROM LEAVE AND EMBASSY UNABLE YET TO DISCUSS REPORTED NYT DECISION TO CLOSE LAGOS BUREAU. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD RAISE ISSUE WITH NYT UNTIL WE HAVE OBTAINED FURTHER DETAILS.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT FORESEE SIGNIFICANT IMPORVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AFFECTING VOA AND NYT WGRKING CONDITIONS IN LAGOS. LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS HASSLES OF LAGOS MAY
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WELL GET WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER. WE HAVE NO RECENT INDICATIONS OF WASHINGTON POST OR ANY OTHER US MEDIA INTEREST. WE SEE LITTLE CHANCE THAT ANY NIGERIAN INSTITUTION WILLING HOUSE OR SUPPORT US CORRESPONDENT. EVEN IF AVAILABLE, WE DOUBT SUCH SUPPORT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, EITHER IN PRINCIPLE OR IN PRACTICE, TO US CORRESPONDENT. EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY OR DEPARTMENT TO RAISE OUR CONCERNS OVER

THESE MATTERS WITH THE FMG IN ANY FORMAL WAY. WE INTEND, HOWEVER, TO TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN VARIOUS INFORMAL SETTINGS ONCE WE KNOW DEFINITELY WHAT VOA AND NYT INTEND TO DO.

4. EMBASSY'S RESPONSE TO OTHER QUESTIONS IN REFTEL A WILL BE SENT ASAP.

5. DO NOT UNDERSTAND REFTEL A'S REFERENCE IN PARAGRAPH 5 TO "DECLINE IN CONTACTS BETWEEN US INSTITUTIONS AND NIGERIA."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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